

3.1.2 Overview of the Permit/Types of Permits/ General Permits

Applicability:

A general permit covers a particular category of identical or very similar point sources within a geographic area, excluding facilities that have a site-specific permit.

Content:

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a program administered by the U.S. EPA. The national program responsibilities can be delegated by U.S. EPA to “approved states”, as is the case in Missouri. The Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program manages the NPDES program in Missouri. General permits are an important component of the state program.

General permits cover a group of similar discharges under one permit. These permits simplify the process for dischargers to obtain authorization to discharge, provide permit requirements for any discharger that applies for coverage, and reduce the administration workload for NPDES permitting authorities. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources posts these general permits online. The industrial process water and wastewater (currently in the development stage) general permits are located at <http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/permits/wpcpermits-general.htm>. The stormwater general permits are located at <http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/permits/wpcpermits-stormwater.htm>. A potential applicant must complete the appropriate application, also found at the above links, and submit it to the department along with the appropriate fee.

A general permit is developed and issued to cover multiple facilities within a specific category, such as:

- Storm water point sources
- Facilities with the same or similar operations
- Facilities with the same types of waste discharges
- Facilities with the same types of sludge use or disposal
- Facilities that require the same effluent limits, operating conditions or sludge handling conditions
- Facilities that require the same monitoring conditions
- Facilities more appropriately regulated by a general permit (e.g. aquaculture operations)

General permits are developed and issued to dischargers within a specific geographic area, such as sewer districts, cities, counties, urbanized areas (e.g. SMSAs), the state highway system, or the state as a whole.

A general permit for a category of dischargers is issued for a specific period of time, typically five years. A specific discharger applies for coverage under the general permit. That facility is covered by the general permit from the date of its approval until the general permit expires. This

coverage may be for the full term of the general permit or for a shorter period. To continue coverage under a general permit, a facility must submit a new application prior to the expiration of the general permit.

Legal References:

Missouri Clean Water Law, Chapter 644

644.026.1(13)	Powers and duties of commission--rules, procedure.
644.051.2 , 3 and 4	Prohibited acts--permits required, when, fee--bond required of permit holders, when--permit application procedures--rulemaking--limitation on use of permit fee moneys.

Code of State Regulations:

10 CSR 20-2.010	Definitions
10 CSR 20-6.010(1), (2), (3), (8), (10) and (13)	Construction and Operating Permits - (1) General (2) Permit Applications (3) Continuing Authorities (8) Permit Terms and Conditions (10) Operating Permit Renewal and Expiration Dates (13) General Permits (GP)

Code of Federal Regulations

40 CFR Part 122.28	EPA Administered Programs: The NPDES - General Permits
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Other Links:

[U.S. EPA NPDES Permit Writers' Manual](#), especially Chapter 3

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Revised By: Carrie M. Schulte

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